

Dear Sir

Philadelphia 12th March 1782

128

I am honoured with yours of the 23rd Ult^o, which I shall immediately lay before Congress.

I am sorry the subject had not been divided, so as to bring into view, first the quota of eight million: and afterward (redress for five million Old Continental, that died in your hands.

However I shall do the best I can with it. As to Vermont, a rumour prevails here, that they have agreed to comply with the Resolutions of Aug^t, that is, to relinquish their late encroachments, &c. &c. if this be true, the hurly burly is gone. The papers they laid before Congress were chiefly copies of such things as they had formerly laid before the assembly of New Hampshire; with a pretty long memorial of theirs, drawn up in their usual style. I should have sent you copies, if they had appeared interesting: but I will revise, & if any thing appears new, you shall have it. As to the sense of Congress, it appears to me, that New York Virginia N^o S Carolina & Georgia are against receiving Vermont into Confederation, or allowing independence. Mass^{ts} R^o Island Con^t. N^o Jersey Penn^a Delaware & Maril^d fav^r them. So you see 7 for it & against it. But it requires the

assent of Nine states, by articles of Confederation. Some of the states may change their delegates, or delegates may change their minds. My own private opinion would be (seeing the matter is brought to what it is) to give them independence, & receive them into confederation, if that would end our troubles upon the subject, which I suppose it would; but I shall never vote for it without instructions! from the state. ^{as I think myself bound by instructions to the contrary} Perhaps the case may be much the same wth the delegates of N.Y.: but this I cant affirm. Genl Scot & Col Floyd are genl of candour, & discernment; but they are governed by instructions. If nothing else will do let N.H. & N.Y. by acts of legislature appoint commissioners to settle the boundaries (at the height of land.) This proposal comes from the delegates of N.Y. If N.H. must go to war they may as well claim to the height of land as to the river & perhaps as easily conquer one as the other.

If W. Langdon sh^d decline which I sh^d be sorry for, I wish the other delegates may be sent to relieve me by first of May or sooner. I have the hon^r.

To be Your most obed^t servant

Hon. M. Wearing Presid. & Sam^l Livermore

Dear Sir,

Philadelphia March 2. 1782
Dⁿ 124

I have drawn on you a set of bills of this date, in favour of the Hon. Rob. Morris, for one hundred pound lawfull money. Which sum he was so kind as to advance: and at the same time told me he had a letter from Col Langdon, informing him that my former bills w^d not be paid untill midsummer. I confess it gave me some anxiety for myself, as drawer of the bills, and some (but this I leave you to judge of) as a member of that state on which the bills were drawn. I wish some method could have been hit upon to have satisfied Mr Langdon without exposing our poverty to so great a degree. And my bills may meet with such payment as will not dishonour the state. But as the subject is painful to me, to dwell on, and will doubtless be so to you, I shall proceed to the old story of Vermont, and that is worn a little thread-bare. Yesterday, after several days debate on the subject, a resolution was passed to strike out of the report of the Com^{tee}. (you have the report) all that part which proposed to give Vermont another month to comply with the resolution of Aug^t last. See This you

will very plainly see was to destroy the whole report. The debate will be taken up again in a few days; but what will be done I know not.

I fear some would sacrifice the peace of N.H. & N.Y. both to gratify their darling Vermont: others will never agree to any terms that suppose the existence of their independence.

Between these two parties no one proposition respecting them can be agreed on.

You will perceive by the mem^o. inclosed that the Lottery is not yet done drawing.

I have the honour to be
Your most obed^t humble
servant

Samuel Messmore

The Hon^{ble}

Neshek Weare Pres^t. Gen^l

2. March
16 April 1783
S. Messmore to Pres^t